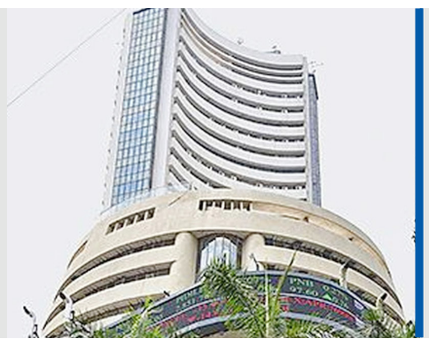
NATION
10 satellites watching over citizens: ISRO
≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS
Investors get rich by almost Rs 16.15L cr
≫ Page: 7 ≪



SPORTS
CA backs Aussies refusing IPL return to India
≫ Page: 8 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 13 MAY 2025 | TUESDAY | BENGALURU | 14 DHU'L-QI'DAH, 1446 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 129 | Pages: 8

INDIA, PAK HOLD 1ST TALKS SINCE TRUCE

Drones spotted in J&K soon after PM's speech; Pakistan says Indian drones killed 7 civilians

TRUMP CLAIMS...

US stopped 'nuclear conflict'

NEW YORK/ WASHINGTON, 12 MAY

US President Donald Trump on Monday claimed his administration averted a potential "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, suggesting that a ceasefire was brokered with the help of trade incentives.

He said India and Pakistan ended hostilities for a lot of reasons "but trade is a big one."

Speaking at the White House, the president said the US is already negotiating a trade deal with India and will soon start negotiating with Pakistan.

Trump said, "On Saturday, my administration helped broker a full and immediate ceasefire between India and Pakistan—nations with lots of nuclear weapons—ending a dangerous conflict that was escalating rapidly."

While Trump asserted the US played a key role, Indian government sources in New Delhi maintained the ceasefire understanding was reached bilaterally through talks between the countries' Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs), without third-party mediation.

Trump praised the "strength and wisdom" of Indian and Pakistani leadership and claimed trade offers were used as leverage. "I said, 'We're going to do a lot of trade if you stop it. If you don't stop it, we won't do any trade,'" he added.

"Millions could have been killed in what could have been a bad nuclear war," he stated. Trump also credited Vice President Vance and Secretary of State Rubio for their roles in the effort. —*PTI*

Indian armed forces displayed pictures of what appeared to be a wreckage of a Pakistani jet that was shot down during escalation between the two neighbours. In a video that was played for the media, the wreckage of a jet can be seen with the caption 'The Pakistani Mirage ... Shattered' ***PHOTO: X***

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

India and Pakistan's Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) held a crucial hotline conversation on Monday, discussing the 10 May agreement to cease hostilities. Originally slated for noon, the talks commenced around 5 pm. The conversation followed a recent understanding to halt military actions on land, air and sea.

While Pakistani violations were reported on Saturday night, the situation remained calm on Sunday, with no incidents across Jammu and Kashmir or the international border, the Indian Army confirmed. Ahead of the DGMO talks, Indian military officials addressed the media, detailing Operation Sindoor.

On Pakistan military's claim of success in hitting Indian installations, Air Marshal AK Bharti said, "In spite of some minor damage incurred, all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational." He criticised the Pakistan military for "intervening on behalf of terrorists," prompting India's retaliatory strikes.

From 7 to 10 May, India launched precision strikes on key Pakistani military installations—including air bases, radar sites, and command centres—after Pakistan attempted to target Indian bases.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the understanding aims to halt hostilities with immediate effect, though officials noted Operation Sindoor remains ongoing, and that terrorism cannot coexist with diplomatic cooperation.

Meanwhile, Pakistan claimed Indian drone and missile strikes on Saturday killed seven and injured six in Punjab province, hitting sites in Lahore, Chiniot, Pakpattan, and the Sheikh Zayed International Airport in Rahim Yar Khan. Pakistan Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry acknowledged "minor damage" to one aircraft, denying any Indian pilots were captured. He described Pakistan's response as "precise and restrained". Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting with key ministers and military chiefs ahead of the DGMO call, reaffirming India's stance on countering cross-border terrorism while keeping communication channels open. —*PTI*

>>>More on Pages 2, 3, 5 & 7

MODI SAYS...

India won't tolerate 'nuclear blackmail'

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

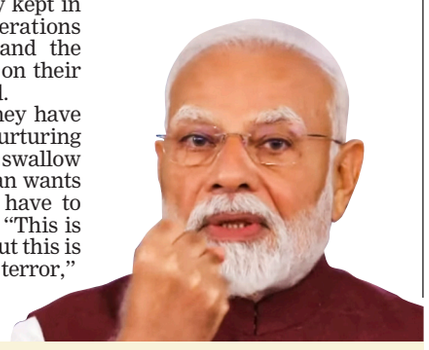
In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday warned Pakistan that India will not succumb to nuclear blackmail. He sent a clear message to the world: terror and trade, terror and talks cannot go together.

Just minutes after his speech, Pakistani drones were spotted and explosions were heard in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba and Air Force Station in Udhampur.

Precautionary blackout measures were enforced in Punjab's Amritsar and Hoshiarpur.

Meanwhile, Modi said that Operation Sindoor, is still ongoing and is India's new policy against terrorism. "We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan and the future will depend on their behaviour," he said.

"The terrorists they have been feeding and nurturing all these years will swallow Pakistan. If Pakistan wants to survive, it will have to root out terrorism. "This is not an era of war, but this is also not the era of terror," Modi said. "Any talks with Pakistan can happen only on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," Modi said. Modi's assertions about not doing trade with Pakistan came minutes after US President Donald Trump said that he told India and Pakistan that his administration will do trade with them only if they end the conflict. Modi said that while Pakistan pleaded with India to stop the military offensive, New Delhi considered it only after they promised to stop their misadventure. Modi termed the Pahalgam attack as the most "barbaric face of terrorism", saying the enemy has now realised the consequences of removing "sindoor from the forehead of our women". —*PTI*



32 AIRPORTS RESUME OPERATIONS

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) announced on Monday that civilian flight operations will resume at 32 airports that were temporarily closed due to heightened military tensions between India and Pakistan. The airports, primarily located in northern and western India, including Srinagar and Amritsar, had been shut since 9 May and were scheduled to remain closed until 0529 hours on May 15. The AAI stated that operations are now available immediately. Travellers are advised to verify their flight status directly with airlines and to check airlines' websites for ongoing updates. The decision follows several Notices to Airmen issued by AAI and other aviation authorities regarding the shutdown of these airports. —*PTI*

CHINA DENIES SENDING MILITARY AID TO PAK

The Chinese military has refuted allegations that its largest military cargo plane, the Xi'an Y-20, transported arms supplies to Pakistan. The People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAF) issued a statement on Monday, emphasising that reports circulating online are false. In response to the rumours, the PLAF shared several images stamped with the word "rumour" and warned that those disseminating such military-related misinformation could face legal repercussions. Notably, a report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) indicates that China has supplied 81% of Pakistan's arms between 2020 and 2024, reinforcing their close military ties. Jointly manufactured aircraft, such as the J-17, serve as a critical component of the Pakistan Air Force.

INDIAN, PAK STOCK MARKETS SEE BIG GAINS

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty recorded their biggest single-day gains in absolute terms on Monday, skyrocketing nearly 4 per cent, after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop military actions and US and China announced a deal to lower tariffs significantly. After opening on a high note, the 30-share BSE Sensex soared by 2,975.43 points or 3.74 per cent to settle at a more than seven-month high of 82,429.90. During the day, it rallied 3,041.5 points or 3.82 per cent to a high of 82,495.97. The 50-issue Nifty of NSE skyrocketed 916.70 points or 3.82 per cent to close at 24,924.70. The Pakistan Stock Exchange too recorded its sharpest single-day gain in 26 years, gaining an over nine per cent increase in trading. The index opened with a gain of 9,929.48 points. ***>>>More on Page 7***

US and China halt tariffs for 90 days

GENEVA, 12 MAY

US and Chinese officials said Monday they had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war. The US has agreed to drop its 145 per cent tariff rate on Chinese goods by 115 percentage points to 30 per cent, while China agreed to lower its rate on US goods by the same amount to 10 per cent, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said. Stock markets rose sharply as the globe's two major economic powers took a step back from a clash that has unsettled the global economy.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump signed a 30-day deadline for drugmakers to lower the cost of prescription drugs in a sweeping executive order that he will sign on Monday.

The order calls on the health department, led by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., to broker new price tags for drugs, according to a White House official who briefed the press on the executive order ahead of its signing.

If a deal is not reached, a new rule will kick in that will tie the price of what the US pays for medications to lower prices paid by other countries. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

In call to Modi, Putin says will visit India soon

MOSCOW, 12 MAY

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in a telephone conversation to reaffirm the strategic partnership between Russia and India. Putin expressed condolences for the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, emphasising the necessity for ongoing cooperation in combating terrorism. He also invited Putin to visit India for the annual bilateral summit, a proposal that was favourably received. —*ANI*

Kremlin turn down Ukraine's ceasefire proposal

KYIV, 12 MAY

Russia launched more than 100 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine in night-time attacks, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, after the Kremlin rejected an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in the more than three-year war. There was no response from the Kremlin, meanwhile, to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's challenge for Russia's President Vladimir Putin to meet him for face-to-face peace talks.—*ANI*

>>>More on Page 6

IPL TO RESUME FROM 17 MAY, FINAL ON 3 JUNE: BCCI

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

The BCCI on Monday decided to resume the IPL season across six venues from 17 May with the final on 3 June as per the revised schedule. The IPL was halted on 8 May after the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was called off after Pakistan tried to invade Indian air space near Chandigarh. The first match upon the resumption of the league will be between RCB and CSK in Bengaluru on 17 May. The six venues for league matches as per the revised schedule will be: Bengaluru, Jaipur, Delhi, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Mumbai. The venues for the playoff matches will be announced at a later date. The revised schedule includes two double-headers, which will be played on two Sundays.. —*PTI*

END OF AN ERA

123 matches & 9,230 runs later, Virat Kohli retires from Test

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

India's most successful Test captain and batting mainstay for over a decade, Virat Kohli, announced his retirement from Test cricket on Monday. The 36-year-old's decision ends a remarkable 14-year career, where he was seen as the face of modern Test cricket.

Kohli represented India in 123 Tests, scoring 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85. He debuted in 2011 and later led India to the world No. 1 ranking in 2017. Kohli's last Test series, in Australia, was modest, with just one century. He had stepped down as captain in 2022 after a dip in form and mental fatigue. Despite this, his peak years (2016–2018) saw 14 centuries and averages above 75. Having retired from T20Is last year, Kohli will now focus on ODIs, where he's expected to continue until at least 2027. —*PTI*

Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life. As I step away from this format, it's not easy — but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for. I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile. #269, signing off. Virat Kohli

VIRAT'S TEST CAREER IN NUMBERS

9,230	30	31
runs	centuries	fifties

>>>More on Page 8

London's Paddington subway is one of the stations affected ***PHOTO: EPA***

POWER OUTAGE DISRUPTS LONDON

LONDON, 12 MAY

A power outage suspended or distrusted multiple lines on the London Underground network, the British capital's transport authority said on Monday. The Transport for London website showed that at least two subway lines were suspended due to a power failure, and there were severe delays and partial suspensions on at least three other lines. A Transport for London spokesperson told the PA news agency that there was a power cut in South London "for a matter of minutes," causing disruption in the subway network. The spokesperson, who was not named, said "everything shut down" due to a "National Grid issue." British media reported that many stations in central London were completely closed. The extent or cause of the disruption was not immediately clear. —*PTI*

PHONEPE SYSTEM FACES OUTAGE AGAIN

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

The country's biggest fintech firm PhonePe reported a technical glitch in its system that led to the failure of transactions.

PhonePe co-founder Rahul Chari said PhonePe heightened cybersecurity measures on its network firewall. "This evening, 100 per cent of our traffic across all our services was being served through a new data centre. Unfortunately, the Monday evening peak traffic exposed a network capacity shortfall due to which transactions started failing," he said. According to the digital services outage tracker platform Downdetector, the report started coming in at around 6 pm and peaked around quarter to 7pm. UPI faced three outages between 26 March to 12 April. —*PTI*

3 of family killed in car-lorry collision in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA, 12 MAY

Three members of a family died after their car collided with a lorry near Holalkere early on Monday, police said. The family hailing from Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh was en route to Udupi when the accident occurred around 4am, they said. Citing preliminary investigation, a police officer said the car driver allegedly dozed off while driving and entered the opposite lane, resulting in a head-on collision with the lorry that was heading towards Ballari from Mangaluru. Three members of the family, including a woman, died, he said. The car driver sustained injuries but is stated to be out of danger now. He is currently being treated at a hospital in Chitradurga, the officer said. Plice have registered a case. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

TV actor Rakesh Poojary dies of heart attack

UDUPI, 12 MAY

Television actor and comedian Rakesh Poojary, winner of Season 3 of reality show 'Comedy Kiladigalu', died of cardiac arrest on Sunday at a pre-wedding ceremony in Nitte near Udupi, family sources said on Monday. He was 34 years old. Poojary collapsed during a mehendi function and was declared dead shortly thereafter. A native of Karkala in Udupi district, Poojary was the son of Dinkar Poojary and Shambhavi. He had garnered popularity for his role in the Kannada television serial Hitler Kalyana and had also acted in several other television and film projects. The news of his untimely demise has shocked the Kannada television and film fraternity, and several colleagues expressed their condolences. His last rites will be performed in Karkala. *—PTI*

BMRCL to run normal services on 13 and 17 May

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

Following the postponement of IPL matches in City, the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has cancelled its planned late-night metro services on 13 and 17 May. Services on the Purple and Green Lines were initially set to run until 1.30am due to matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium. However, with the BCCI rescheduling the fixtures, regular metro timings will now apply. Commuters are advised to plan accordingly and check BMRCL's website or social media for further updates. ***—Salar News***

Will inspect white topping quality regularly: DyCM

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar today said that he would be inspecting white topping projects of City frequently to ensure good quality of construction. Speaking to reporters after inspecting white topping work at various places in City, he said, "I will not inspect in places recommended by officials. I will inspect randomly. We have to ensure that this white topping stays strong for over 30 years. The quality of construction was good during my inspections." Asked about his statement that waste management vendors were behaving like mafia, he said, "The Court has removed the stay on tendering of solid waste management in City. Court has given four months to call for tenders. We have proof ofmalpractice in tendering. We will ensure that the process is transparent and the governance is transparent and efficient. Things will not happen in one daybut will improve in phases."***—Salar News***

BBMP to cease ops; GBA to take over on 14 May

City will be divided into 3 regional municipal corporations

BENGALURU AND ITS GOVERNING BODY

Bengaluru will now be divided into Bengaluru Central, Bengaluru North, and Bengaluru South. Here is a timeline of Bengaluru's evolving governing bodies:

1862: The first municipal governance body was established in Bengaluru.

1949: Different municipal entities merged to form the Corporation of the City of Bengaluru.

BBMP was officially formed in 2007.

It was established through the integration of the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP), seven City Municipal Councils (RMC), one Town Municipal Council (TMC), and 110 surrounding villages.

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will officially cease operations on 14 May, paving the way for the newly established Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to assume control on 15 May. This transition follows the enactment of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act 2024, which aims to decentralise the City's administration.

Under the new structure, Bengaluru will be divided into three regional municipal corporations: Bengaluru Central, Bengaluru North, and Bengaluru South. These entities will report to a central administrative authority, with the Chief Minister serving as the GBA Chairperson and the Deputy Chief Minister as Vice-Chair. An appointed Administrator will oversee the daily operations of the corporations.

The GBA's jurisdiction is set to expand to include areas such as Electronic City, Attibele, Jigani, Bommasandra, Sarjapur, Bagaluru, Rajanukunte, Hesaraghatta, and Dasanapura. Peripheral zones like Tavarekere, Kumbalgodu, Kengeri, Kaggalipura, and Harohalli may also be integrated. Key civic agencies, including the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), BengaluruElectricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), and the Fire and Transport departments, will come under the GBA's purview.

However, the restructuring has faced criticism.

Opposition parties and civic groups argue that the move violates the 74th Constitutional Amendment, which mandates decentralised urban governance.

The Bengaluru Town Hall collective has announced plans to challenge the GBA in the Supreme Court, citing concerns over the concentration of power and lack of citizen representation. *—Salar News*

The post on X, which has now been deleted, was intended to criticise PM Narendra Modi for failing to stop IMF loan to Pak ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

State Cong posts distorted J&K map

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

A social media post by the Congress in Karnataka, allegedly containing a map showing Jammu and Kashmir as part of Pakistan, has evoked a sharp reaction from the opposition BJP.

The post on X, which has now been deleted by the ruling party in the state, was intended to criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government for "failing" to stop the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan to Pakistan.

The IMF on 9 May approved the immediate disbursement of about USD 1 billion to Pakistan under the ongoing Extended Fund Facility.

India's opposition to the IMF came during the recent military conflict with Pakistan post the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Congress state president and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "It is false. There was a small mistake; we have removed everything... someone has played a mischief."

Asked about repeated goofups on the party's social media handle, Shivakumar said, "The people responsible for the posts have been removed."

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said that by posting a map showing Kashmir as part of Pakistan just hours after Operation Sindhoor, Karnataka Congress has once again demonstrated its affection for "sinful" Pakistan.

"There is no doubt that the IT cell of the Karnataka Congress party is a sleeper cell for Pakistani terrorists," he posted on X. *—PTI*

'Ceasefire without all-party meet'

MYSURU, 12 MAY

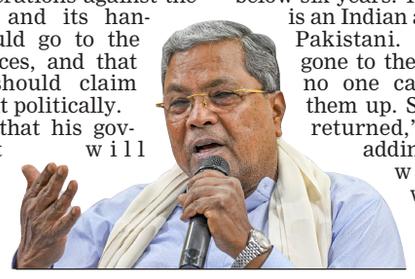
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said the Centre should have called an all party meeting and convened a Parliament session before reaching an understanding with Pakistan to stop all military action.

"In my opinion they (the Central government) should have called an all party meeting. Also, the Parliament should have been convened, because it is a very serious matter."

"A ceasefire has been declared, and both countries have come to an understanding on this. The DGMO of both countries are meeting, let's see what is decided there," Siddaramaiah said.

He also said the entire credit for the operations against the terrorists and its handlers should go to the armed forces, and that no one should claim credit for it politically.

He said that his government will support the decision of the Union govern-



ment regarding initiating tough measures on Pakistan, for eliminating cross border terrorism and other issues concerned to national security, unity and integrity of the nation.

The CM also refused to comment on Donald Trump posts announcing a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

On comparing Indira Gandhi's leadership during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and the ongoing India–Pakistan situation, he said, "It has been about 54 years since. I don't want to speak about it now."

To a question whether all Pakistani nationals in the state have left, Siddaramaiah said only three children are left were still in Mysuru.

The three children are aged below six years. Their mother is an Indian and father, a Pakistani. "They had gone to the border, but no one came to pick them up. So they have returned," he said, adding that they were with their mother now. *— Salar News*

On 20 May, govt to celebrate 2 years in Vijayanagara

MYSURU, 12 MAY

State Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has indicated that the Congress government's two-year anniversary event is likely to be held on 20 May, in the Vijayanagara district. The celebration had been indefinitely postponed due to the recent military conflict between India and Pakistan. With a ceasefire now in place, preparations are resuming. Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah said Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and K C Venugopal had informed Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi of the postponement. "They will now check with them and let us know. We want to organise the event," he stated. The Chief Minister claimed his government had "walked the talk" by delivering on its promises. When asked about a possible cabinet reshuffle, he declined to comment. *—PTI*

BUDDHA PURNIMA

Buddhist monks offer prayers on the occasion of Buddha Purnima at Maha Bodhi Society in Bengaluru on Monday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

FAULTY BATTERY SPARKS FIRE IN CITY

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

Two parked cars were destroyed in a fire early Monday morning in Valmiki Nagar under Byadarahalli police station limits. The blaze, reported around 1.30 am, is suspected to have been caused by a faulty car battery.

Eyewitnesses saw flames emerging from the engine compartment of one vehicle, which quickly spread to a second car parked nearby. Residents alerted the fire brigade, which responded promptly and extinguished the fire before further damage occurred. Fire officials confirmed the cause as a suspected battery malfunction. Thankfully, no injuries or casualties were reported. A case has been registered at Byadarahalli police station, and an investigation is underway to determine possible negligence or other factors. *—Salar News*

Showers likely in City through the week, says IMD

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

Pre-monsoon showers are set to return to Bengaluru and surrounding areas, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting light to moderate rain accompanied by thunder, lightning, and gusty winds during evenings and nights over the next five days.

Partly cloudy skies will dominate the city's weather, with isolated rainfall expected across both Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts. The activity is attributed to changing atmospheric conditions and the formation of a trough over interior Karnataka, indicating strengthening pre-monsoon currents ahead of the southwest monsoon.

Rainfall is likely to intensify from Tuesday in other parts of Karnataka, especially along the coast, Malnad, and south interior regions. However, north interior Karnataka is expected to remain largely dry, with only patchy showers in some pockets. Districts such as Ramanagara, Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Tumakuru, Shivamogga, Davanagere, Hassan, and Chikkamagaluru are expected to see light to moderate rainfall.

Coastal districts including Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Uttara Kannada may also experience scattered showers. *—Salar News*

Protests erupt in Belagavi over partially burnt religious book

BELAGAVI, 12 MAY

Belagavi witnessed widespread protests on Monday after a partially burnt religious holy book was discovered beside a prayer house in Santi Bastwad, approximately 10 km from the city. The incident sparked outrage among local communities, leading to demonstrations in Santibasthawad, Peeranwadi, Machche, and surrounding areas.

Belagavi Police Commissioner Ada Martin confirmed that the prayer house elders found the partially burnt book in an agricultural field adjacent to the prayer house. This discovery led to protests, with hundreds of community members from various prayer houses participating. The protesters attempted to enter Belagavi to submit a memorandum to the district administration but were stopped and allowed to hold their protest on Belagavi-Goa State highway in front of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), causing traffic disruptions for over two hours.

The protesters attempted to enter Belagavi to submit a memorandum to the district administration ***PHOTO: SALAR***

Priests and religious leaders, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated that the prayer house in Santi Bastwad had only one copy of the holy book, which was missing during the morning prayer session. Upon searching, it was found partially burnt in the nearby field. They suspect anti-social elements may be behind the act to incite communal tensions.

Belagavi North Congress MLA Asif Saith visited protest site and appealed for calm, urging the community to cooperate with the police to ensure peace. District in-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi also called for maintaining harmony. *—Salar News*

UNSAFE BENGALURU?

'Gun-wielding' thief steals cash from brewery

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

A thief, who was carrying a pistol, broke into a brewery in north City and stole cash, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred at the Geometry Brewery and Kitchen on the Gayatri Nagarroad under the Subramanyanagar Police station limits in Rajajinagar between 3.30am and 4am.

Police said the suspect entered through the back door and stole between Rs 50,000 and Rs 60,000 in cash.

"The watchman complained that a thief entered (the brewery) with a weapon. On noticing him the guard shut the door and alerted the police between 4.30am and 5am. When police arrived, they could not find the thief inside the brewery. The CCTV cameras were also switched off. Prima facie it appears to be a case of theft. Based on the FIR, further investigation will be done," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Saidulu Adavath said.

"It is true that a thief broke in, but whether he was carrying a pistol needs to be confirmed. The watchman saw the suspect from a distance. He was wearing a mask. His statement about a thief carrying a weapon will be investigated," the officer said.

The entire building was searched and the thief was not found. The police suspect that he might have escaped through the bathroom or kitchen at night. The watchman does not how and when the thief exited, they said.

The DCP said that only one person entered the building, and the cash counter was found broken open. "We will file an FIR and investigate it," he said. *—Salar News*

Karnataka to power Namibia training hub

BENGALURU, 12 MAY

In a significant step towards strengthening India-Africa cooperation in vocational training, the Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) has proposed the establishment of a Government Tool and Training Centre (GTTC) in Namibia, with S's GTTC as the knowledge and technology partner, officials said on Monday.

In a recent meeting with Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil, the AIEF highlighted the GTTC's potential as a model for Africa's industrial training needs, they said.

The GTTC operates more than 20 centres across Karnataka, training thousands in precision tooling, CNC operations, mechatronics and robotics. *—PTI*

Borders on the edge as fog of war lifts

Residents from the bordering states of Punjab, Rajasthan return home, hoping the ceasefire holds

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

After teetering on the edge for nearly a week, border regions in the North experienced a relatively calm day, with no shelling, no sightings of drones, and a lighter yoke of emergency measures.

Villagers living close to the Line of Control who were forced to flee due to heavy shelling by Pakistan started returning home on Monday.

They started their journey after bomb disposal squads cleared residential areas of leftover or unexploded shells.

"We are happy that a ceasefire was reached. We are also hopeful that Pakistan will not resort to such activities again," said Arshad Ahmad, a resident of Uri.

Uri MLA Sajjad Shafi asked the residents to remain vigilant and not touch anything suspicious. "They should immediately report any suspicious objects to the authorities for proper disposal."

In Punjab, markets teemed with people in the border areas on Monday, even though schools in Ferozepur, Fazilka, Pathankot, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, and Gurdaspur districts remained shut.

Residents of villages near India-Pakistan border, who were evacuated to safer places due to recent attacks from Pakistan, return to their homes, at Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Daler Singh, a native of Jallo Ke near the Punjab border, said that most residents had left home. "Now, most have returned but they remain cautious. Life is normal and we are going back to our fields."

A Ferozepur native said, "The situation is normal now. We hope the ceasefire holds and peace prevails."

In Rajasthan, a complete blackout was observed in the border districts Sunday night. By Monday morning, an apparent sense of normalcy became palpable with people gathering at tea stalls and shops and bantering.

However, drones were reportedly seen at night in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. *—PTI*

Omar says Pak did not target religious buildings

POONCH/JAMMU, 12 MAY

- The J&K Chief Minister said religious places were not specifically targeted, but areas near madrassas, temples, dargahs and gurdwaras were hit, contradicting the official statement

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said those who had left their homes can return as a military understanding between the two countries is in place now. Omar also said that religious places were not specifically targeted, contradicting the official statement.

He said that the recent shelling created a "war-like situation", with Poonch bearing the brunt of the attack.

"They (border residents) should now try to return to their homes. Eighty to 90 per cent of Poonch town is vacant. Now that the shelling has stopped, they can return to their homes," Abdullah said.

He noted that this is the first time that shells fell in the middle of towns.

Replying to a question on the indiscriminate nature of the shelling, the Chief Minister clarified that religious places were not specifically targeted, but areas near madrassas, temples, dargahs and gurdwaras were hit. "Their firing was random and reckless."

Abdullah emphasised the need for preparedness. "If a situation arises again, we must ensure that lives are not lost." *—PTI*

All military bases, systems remain operational: IAF

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

India on Monday said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational and ready to undertake any mission if the need arises.

At a press briefing, Director General of Air Operations, IAF, Air Marshal AK Bharti said India's robust air defence system effectively thwarted Pakistani attempts to target Indian installations.

Another highlight was stellar performance of indigenous air defence weapons like Akash system, he said.

"Our fight was against terror infrastructure and terrorists but the Pakistan military chose to support terrorists and widened the conflict," the top IAF officer said.

On Pakistan military's claim of success in hitting Indian installations, \Bharti said, "In spite of some minor damage incurred, all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational."

In this screengrab, the Indian Arny said it 'destroyed the enemy in the sky' **PHOTO: X@adgpi**

During the briefing, Bharti fluently recited a from Ramcharitmanas to expound on Lord Ram's patience and anger at the Sea God.

The couplet said, "the ocean remained unmoved by humble requests, three days passed. Then Lord Ram, with rising anger, declared without fear, there can be no love."

It refers to when Lord Ram, waiting for the Sea God to grant him the passage to Lanka, loses patience. He declares that love does not exist without fear and lifts his bow. Only then the Sea God helps. *—PTI*

Sunny Joseph takes helm as KPCC President

T'PURAM, 12 MAY

Senior leader Sunny Joseph, a three-time MLA, was inaugurated as the new president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Monday during a ceremony at the party headquarters. Outgoing President K Sudhakaran formally handed over the responsibilities, marking a significant leadership transition ahead of crucial local body polls and forthcoming assembly elections.

Alongside Joseph, PC Vishnunath MLA, Shafi Parambil MP, and AP Anil Kumar MLA have been appointed as working presidents, while Adoor Prakash MP assumes the role of UDF convenor.

Before the ceremony, Joseph sought the guidance of party veteran AK Antony, who expressed confidence in Joseph's leadership. *—PTI*

Unexploded shells found in civilian areas of Rajouri: Army

Rajouri, 12 May

Multiple unexploded shells have been found in civilian areas of Rajouri district in Jammu region – a discovery that debunks Pakistan's claim that no civilian area was targeted. The Poonch district accounted for the highest 20 of the total 27 fatalities with over 50 others injured since Wednesday. An Army officer leading the clearance operation said, "As you may have seen in the media, Pakistan has repeatedly claimed that it targeted only military installations." He added, "However, you can clearly see here that the shells we are finding have fallen right in the middle of villages, with the entire surrounding area inhabited by civilians." *-PTI*

Wife of detained BSF jawan says Didi assured her of assistance

Kolkata, 12 May

The wife of BSF constable Purnam Kumar Sahu, who has been detained by Pakistan Rangers, claimed that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee spoke to her over the phone and assured her of every effort to secure the release of the Border Security Force personnel. Rajani, wife of the BSF jawan, said the Banerjee called her on Sunday after she expressed her desire to meet Banerjee. "She assured me of every effort to secure his release." Rajani said. *-PTI*

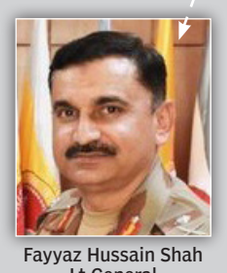
Punjab police warn against malware by Pakistani hackers

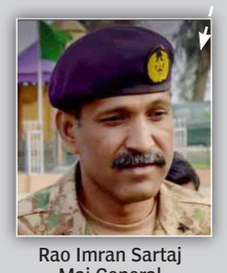
Chandigarh, 12 May

The Punjab police on Monday advised people to remain alert of a malware allegedly being spread by Pakistan-based hackers, saying it could be used to steal personal and banking information. The police advised people against clicking on unknown links or messages. "A dangerous malware named 'Dance of the Hillary' is being spread by Pakistan-based hackers, targeting Indian users via WhatsApp, Facebook and email," the Punjab police said on X. *-PTI*

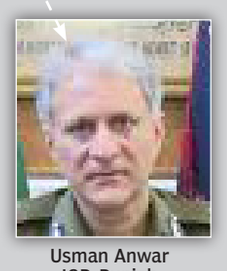
5 PAK OFFICERS SEEN AT FUNERAL OF 'TERRORISTS'

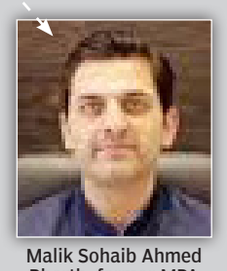
The Indian Armed Force on X released the names of Pakistan officials who attended the funeral of three alleged terrorists who were killed in an 'Operation Sindoor' strike in Muridke, near Lahore, Pakistan. Hafiz Abdul Rauf, an alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, led the funeral prayers. India said this image proves the complicity of the Pakistani state in supporting terrorism. Islamabad however said Rauf is a community man **PHOTO: PTI**


Fayyaz Hussain Shah
Lt General


Rao Imran Sartaj
Maj General

Mohd Furqan Shabbir
Brigadier


Usman Anwar
IGP, Punjab


Malik Sohaib Ahmed
Bherth, former MPA

Man jailed for post claiming Rafale jet was downed: UP

SAMBHAL, 12 MAY

A 27-year-old in Uttar Pradesh was arrested and jailed for allegedly sharing a video claiming that India's Rafale fighter jet was shot down by Pakistan and its pilot taken captive on his Facebook page, police said on Monday. During investigation, it was found that Ali has also allegedly liked and shared several other videos in support of Pakistan on his Facebook account, police said, citing the FIR. Based on a complaint lodged by Sub-Inspector Dheerendra Kumar, a case was registered against Ali on Sunday under Section 152 (acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Jamaat Ali, a resident of Mukrabpur village, was sent to jail on Sunday police said. Another man was arrested in Bareilly for writing "Pakistan Zindabad" and posting it on Facebook. *—PTI*

Gujarat man held for 'Pahalgam was premeditated' post

SURAT, 12 MAY

Police have arrested a 40-year-old businessman in Surat city of Gujarat for allegedly posting an objectionable video on a social media platform related to the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack, an official said on Monday. The man, Dipen Parmar, was arrested on Sunday by personnel of the Amroli police station after he posted a video on Facebook with a message that the "Pahalgam terror attack was premeditated and the leaders of terrorists live in India". Through his video, posted on Facebook page 'Jago India', Parmar conveyed baseless and misleading message, the Amroli police said. Similarly, 13 others in the state were booked for allegedly pro-Pakistan posts. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Andhra gives tax relief to defence staff in villages

VIJAYAWADA, 12 MAY

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced a property tax exemption for homes owned by Indian Defence personnel within gram panchayat limits, as a gesture of honour and gratitude. On Sunday night, Kalyan said on X the exemption which was earlier limited to retired soldiers or those posted at borders, will now cover all active personnel, irrespective of deployment location across the country. "This decision honours the courage of Army, Navy, Air Force, CRPF, and paramilitary forces. Their service to the nation is priceless," he said. Kalyan, who also holds among others the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development portfolio, further said that a property in which the personnel or their spouse resides or jointly owns will be eligible for tax exemption. *—PTI*

HC closes case after Dubey removes post against Moitra

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

The Delhi High Court closed a case after being informed that BJP MP Nishikant Dubey removed his alleged defamatory social media post against Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra. Justice Manmeet PS Arora disposed of Moitra's interim plea after Dubey's counsel said the contentious Facebook post was deleted. Advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, who had also posted a tweet against Moitra on social media, appeared before the court and assured of taking down the post from his X handle. The court then disposed of the application. Moitra claimed being aggrieved by Dubey's post on Facebook and a tweet of Dehadrai on X with the screenshot of Dubey's post. The content was related to a CBI case involving Moitra with the Lokpal of India. *—PTI*

War is not a romantic film: Former Army chief

PUNE, 12 MAY

Former Indian Army chief General Manoj Naravane has criticised people raising questions about suspension of hostilities between India and Pakistan, saying war is not romantic, nor is it a Bollywood movie.

Speaking at an event organised by Institute of Cost Accountants of India in Pune on Sunday, Naravane said he would go to war if ordered, but diplomacy is his first choice.

"War is not romantic. It is not your Bollywood movie. It is very serious business. War or violence should be the last thing we should resort to, which is why our Prime Minister said this is not an era of war. Although war will be forced upon us by unwise people, we should not cheer for it," he said.

"I would like to repeat that it is only a cessation of military operations, not a ceasefire as such. Watch how things unfold in the days and weeks to come," he said.

Manoj Naravane **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

- Former Indian Army chief General Manoj Naravane diplomacy must always be the first choice and war should not be cheered for

He noted that for those who have lost their loved ones, the trauma gets carried through generations. *–PTI*

NCW, OPPN BACK HIM

Misri trolled, daughter doxxed over ceasefire

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who faced trolling on social media for announcing the ceasefire on 10 May, received support from the National Commission for Women (NCW), politicians and diplomats.

The Delhi-based Association of Indian Diplomats issued a statement on Monday, describing the incident as "appalling and completely unacceptable".

"The Association of Indian Diplomats strongly condemns the trolling and doxing of Misri and his family. Strict action needs to be taken against those responsible," it said.

In a statement issued by NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar on Monday, the panel called the doxxing a "grossly irresponsible act".

Rahatkar stressed that personal attacks on the family members of senior civil servants like Misri are morally indefensible. "Let us choose dignity and responsible conduct."

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was trolled and his daughter doxxed after he announced the ceasefire **PHOTO: PTI**

Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya questioned why Misri was being trolled for a decision taken by the government.

A day earlier, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Chief Owaisi, Samajwadi Party (SP) Chief Yadav and former foreign secretary Rao also extended support to Misri.

Yadav wrote on X that such incidents break the morale of honest officers. "Some anti-social criminal elements are openly crossing all limits, but neither the BJP government nor any of its ministers is coming forward to protect his honour and respect."

Rao called the trolling of the senior diplomat "utterly shameful".

"Doxxing his daughter and abusing his loved ones crosses every line of decency. This toxic hate must stop," Rao wrote.

Owaisi echoed on Sunday.

"Our civil servants work under the executive this must be remembered and they shouldn't be blamed for the decisions taken by the executive or any political leadership," he said on X. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Tiger kills woman in M'rashtra; 5th death in 3 days

CHANDRAPUR, 12 MAY

A 30-year-old woman was mauled to death by a tiger in eastern Maharashtra's Chandrapur district on Monday morning, a fifth woman to die of the same cause in three days, a forest official said. Bhuvaneshwari Bhendre, 30, of Bhadurni village was attacked by a tiger around 7am while she was collecting tendu leaves in the forest along with some family members. The incident took place in Mul range under the buffer zone of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. The district has witnessed five deaths in tiger attacks in the last three days. Three women were killed by a tiger in Sindewahi forest area while they were collecting tendu leaves on 10 May. The following day a 65-year-old woman was killed while collecting tendu leaves in Chichpalli range. —*PTI*

Three arrested for spreading terror attack scare in UP

SHAHJAHANPUR, 12 MAY

A case has been registered against three people for allegedly posting fake videos about terrorist attack in the district, a senior police official said on Monday. Superintendent of Police Rajesh Dwivedi on Monday said the media cell in Shahjahanpur had seen a video on Instagram and Facebook in which it was written "terror attack in Shahjahanpur" along with sound of firing, which spread fear among people. A case was registered on Sunday against Instagram account holder Ankit Kumar in Cyber Crime police station and against Parvinder in Kotwali police station. Apart from this, a case has also been registered against an unknown person at Kotwali police station. —*PTI*

HC raps YouTubers for videos against M'rashtra minister

MUMBAI, 12 MAY

The Bombay High Court has ordered deletion of six videos posted by two YouTubers against Maharashtra Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan, noting that they were "prima facie defamatory". A bench of Justice Arif Doctor, in its order passed on 8 May, said that after having watched the videos, a case for grant of interim relief has been made out. The court directed the defendants to immediately take down/delete the six videos uploaded on YouTube. It also restrained them from uploading any more such videos or posts that would be defamatory against Mahajan. The bench posted the matter for further hearing on 20 June. Mahajan had filed a defamation suit against one Anil Thatte and one more person, claiming that they had made false, reckless and unsubstantiated allegations against him. —*PTI*

Suspect in Latur suicide abetment case still at large

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, 12 MAY

Police have launched a manhunt for an individual accused of assaulting a Latur resident, prompting the man's tragic suicide. Amir Gafur Pathan, 30, allegedly took his own life on 4 May, one day after being assaulted by an unidentified man who labelled him a "Pakistani". Pathan's wife, Samrin Amir Pathan, reported that she witnessed her husband in distress on 3 May, with a torn shirt, after he had been confronted by a man who claimed to be a journalist. The assailant allegedly threatened to circulate photos and videos of Pathan on social media, branding him as a Pakistani national. Authorities have registered a case of abetment to suicide and criminal intimidation, with police teams actively searching for the suspect. —*PTI*

10 satellites watching over citizens: ISRO

ISRO to launch first space station by 2040; says India is becoming 'vibrant space power'

IMPHAL, 12 MAY

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said that 10 satellites are continuously working to ensure the safety and security of citizens.

Speaking at the convocation ceremony of the Central Agricultural University in Manipur's Imphal on Sunday, he said India is becoming a "vibrant space power" and will have its first space station by 2040.

"Today, 433 satellites of 34 countries are lifted from India and placed into orbit... At least 10 satellites are continuously working 24/7 for a strategic purpose to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the country," the Narayanan said. His comment came amid the military conflict between India and Pakistan.

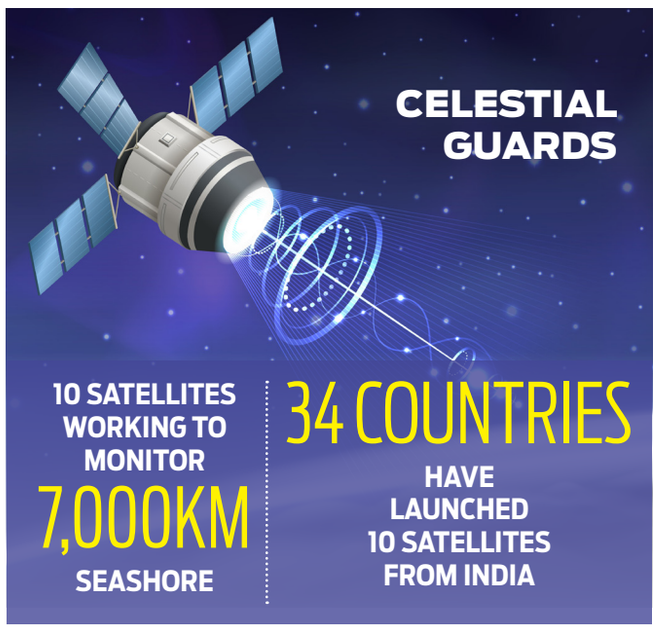
"You all know about our neighbours. If we have to ensure the safety of our country, we have to serve through our satellites. We have to monitor our 7,000km-long seashore," he said. "We have to monitor the entire northern part continuously. Without satellite and drone technology, we can't achieve that."

He said the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing a satellite for G20 countries to study climate change and air pollution and monitor weather.

"We have developed a generation of launch vehicles. We had our first satellite in 1975. From there, till today we have conceived and built 131 satellites of various types and capabilities," he said, adding that India and the US would jointly build an expensive and advanced earth-imaging satellite, which will be launched from the country. —*PTI*

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said ISRO is developing a satellite to study climate change and air pollution, as well as to monitor weather **PHOTO: PTI**

> The backbone of any nation's progress lies in its commitment to research and development
>
> -Anil Kakodkar, former Atomic Energy Commission chairman



ISRO to launch earth imaging satellite from Sriharikota

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

India will launch an earth observation satellite on 18 May from the spaceport at Sriharikota, boosting its surveillance capabilities from space in all weather conditions.

A delegation of lawmakers, part of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, is scheduled to witness the launch of the EOS-09 satellite onboard the ISRO's warhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) at 5:59 am on 18 May, officials said.

Equipped with a C-band synthetic aperture radar, EOS-09 will be capable of capturing high-resolution images of the Earth's surface under all weather conditions, day or night.

This all-weather, round-the-clock imaging is vital for applications, ranging from agriculture and forestry monitoring to disaster management, urban planning, and national security.

The EOS-09 satellite, weighing around 1,710 kg, will join India's growing constellation of Earth observation assets, addressing the need for expanded real-time coverage across the country's vast territory.

The EOS-09 (RISAT-1B) is a follow-on to the RISAT-1 satellite with similar configuration. It complements and supplements data from the Resourcesat, Cartosat and RISAT-2B Series satellites. —*PTI*

13 dead, 14 injured as trailer hits truck in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, 12 MAY

Thirteen people were killed and 14 were injured in a collision between a trailer and a goods truck in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, police said on Monday. All the deceased were women and children.

Four children and nine women died in the accident that took place late Sunday night near Saragaon on Raipur-Balodabazar road in Raipur district.

Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Lal Umed Singh said 35 persons, mostly members of a family, were returning from a family function in Bana-Bansari village when the goods truck they were travelling in collided with a trailer coming from the opposite direction and went on to hit another heavy vehicle.

After getting information about the accident, a police team was sent to the spot, and the injured were taken to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital, Raipur.

District administration officials also reached the spot. Police have registered a case, and the matter is being investigated, the District Collector said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed grief over the incident and announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured persons. —*PTI*

A police team that reached the spot sends the injured persons to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital in Raipur for treatment **PHOTO: PTI**

SC orders probe into river Yamuna embankment row

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

The Supreme Court of India has directed the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to investigate allegations regarding an embankment constructed on the River Yamuna near the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary in Haryana, purportedly to facilitate illegal mining activities.

The CEC, established following a Supreme Court order in May 2002, is tasked with monitoring compliance with the court's directives, which encompass issues such as encroachment removal, working plan implementation, compensatory afforestation, and broader conservation matters.

The case was brought before a bench comprising Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih. Advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal, representing the petitioner, claimed that the embankment has diverted the river's flow from Haryana into UP, thereby benefitting mining operations.

The bench said, "We find it appropriate for the CEC to examine the issues and submit its report." The court asked the petitioner to provide a copy of the application to the advocates representing Haryana and UP to help them to respond to the claims made.

The next hearing will be held in the final week of May. The Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the eastern region of Yamunanagar, Haryana, and is noted for its ecological significance. —*PTI*

DISPLAY OF DEVOTION

Thousands of devotees gather to take a holy dip in the Ganga on the occasion of Buddha Purnima at Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

India renews $50M Treasury Bill support to Maldives for 1 year

MALE, 12 MAY

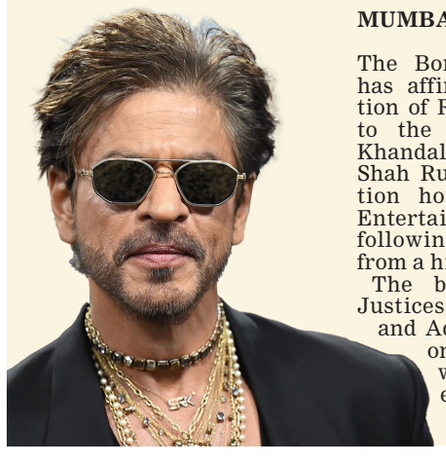
India has extended crucial financial support to the Maldives through the rollover of the USD 50 million Treasury Bill for one more year, a move the Maldivian government said will support its efforts to implement fiscal reforms for economic resilience.

At the request of the Maldivian government, the SBI subscribed, for one more year, a USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, the Indian High Commission in the Maldives said on Monday.

Since March 2019, the Indian government has been facilitating subscription of several such Treasury Bills by the SBI and rolling them over, annually, interest-free to the Government of Maldives, it said. "This has been done under a unique Government-to-Government arrangement, as emergency financial assistance to the Maldives," the statement said.

Abdulla Khaleel, the Maldives' Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed gratitude to India and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the support. —*PTI*

HC upholds ₹62L aid to SRK staffer's kin



MUMBAI, 12 MAY

The Bombay High Court has affirmed a compensation of Rs 62 lakh awarded to the family of Charu Khandal, an animator for Shah Rukh Khan's production house, Red Chillies Entertainment, who died following severe injuries from a hit-and-run incident.

The bench, comprising Justices Girish Kulkarni and Advait Sethna, ruled on May 9 that there was no substantial error in the November 2020 tribunal decision, emphasising that the Motor Vehicles Act is designed to deliver justice to victims. They highlighted the importance of fair compensation while acknowledging that monetary remuneration cannot replace the loss of life.

Khandal's tragic story began in March 2012 when she suffered cervical spinal cord injuries in an accident that left her paralysed from the neck down. Five years later, she succumbed to complications linked to her condition. Despite the insurance company's claims that there was no direct link between her injuries and her subsequent death, the court maintained the tribunal's conclusion that her death was a result of septicaemia stemming from her traumatic quadriplegia.

The High Court dismissed the insurer's petition, asserting that medical expenses incurred by Khandal's family amounted to Rs 18 lakh and that the tribunal's assessment was fair and justified. —*PTI*

Police said the dog's owner was identified from the video and charged with sections sealing with animal cruelty **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

Man arrested for tying dog to auto and dragging

NOIDA, 12 MAY

A man in Greater Noida has been booked for animal cruelty and arrested after a video of him dragging a dog tied to an auto went viral, police said on Monday.

They said Nitin, a resident of Dadha village under Kasna police station limits, was arrested on Sunday.

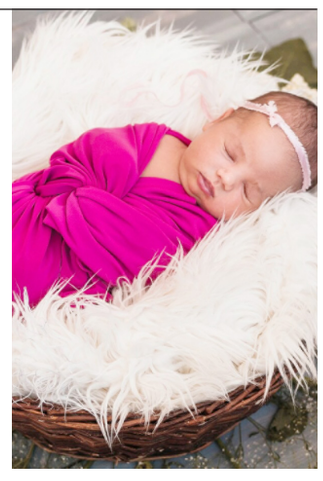
Captured by a passerby, the video sparked outrage online, with dog lovers expressing anger against the owner for negligence and demanding action against him.

Kasna station in-charge Dharmendra Shukla said, "The dog's owner Nitin was identified from the video. He has been booked under sections pertaining to animal cruelty and arrested on Sunday."

The accused told police that he was taking the dog in an auto, but it fell out of the vehicle and he was unaware about it. "The dog is in a stable condition. It is fine now," said Shukla. —*PTI*

BESTOWING COURAGE

17 newborns named Sindoor in UP



KUSHINAGAR, 12 MAY

Inspired by 'Operation Sindoor', 17 newborn girls in Uttar Pradesh have been named Sindoor.

"17 newborn girls born in a span of two days -- 10 and 11 May -- in Kushinagar Medical College have been named Sindoor by their family members," Principal Dr RK Shahi said on Monday.

Hailing Indian armed forces for "giving a befitting reply to Pakistan", Archana Shahi of Kushinagar, who recently gave birth to a baby girl, said, "The lives of the women were ruined when they lost their husbands. Now, Sindoor is not a word but an emotion. So, we decided to name our daughter Sindoor."

Madan Gupta from Padrauna said ever since the operation, his daughter-in-law, Kajal Gupta, wanted to name her newborn Sindoor. "That way, we will remember this operation," he said.

Vyasmuni from Bhathahi Babu village said the name would instil courage in his daughter.

"When my daughter grows up, she will understand the true meaning of this word and present herself as a dutiful woman for Mother India," he said. –*PTI*

VANISHING YALA GLACIER

On 12 May, a ceremony to commemorate the rapidly retreating Yala Glacier in Nepal's Langtang Valley took place at a high altitude of 5,000m. Many scientists, monks, villagers, and government officials gathered to pay tribute to one of the Himalaya's most researched and endangered glaciers, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development said. Two granite memorials were unveiled during the event which bore messages from two acclaimed authors, Manjushree Thapa and Andri Snær Magnason

PHOTO: ICIMMOD

India-Pakistan ceasefire disguises fact on norms

India and Pakistan have seen the scenario play out before: a terror attack in which Indians are killed leads to a succession of escalatory tit-fot-tat measures that put South Asia on the brink of all-out war. And then there is a de-escalation.

The broad contours of that pattern have played out in the most recent crisis, with the latest step being the announcement of a ceasefire on 10 May, 2025. But in another important way, the flare-up – which began on 22 April with a deadly attack in Indian-controlled Kashmir, in which 26 people were killed – represents significant departures from the past. It involved direct missile exchanges targeting sites inside both territories and the use of advanced missile systems and drones by two nuclear rivals for the first time.

As a scholar of nuclear rivalries, especially between India and Pakistan, I have long been concerned that the erosion of international sovereignty norms, diminished US interest and influence in the region and stockpiling of advanced military and digital technologies have significantly raised the risk of rapid and uncontrolled escalation in the event of a trigger in South Asia.

These changes have coincided with domestic political shifts in both countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has heightened communal tensions in the country. Meanwhile Pakistan's powerful Army Chief, Gen Syed Asim Munir, has embraced the "two-nation theory," which holds that Pakistan is a homeland for the subcontinent's Muslims and India for Hindus.

This religious framing was even seen in the naming of the two countries' military operations. For India, it is "Operation Sindoor" – a reference to the red vermilion used by married Hindu women, and a provocative nod to widows of the Kashmir attack. Pakistan called its counter-operation "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" – an Arabic phrase from Quran meaning "a solid structure."

The India-Pakistan rivalry has cost tens of thousands of lives across multiple wars in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 ***PHOTO: PTI***

The India-Pakistan rivalry has cost tens of thousands of lives across multiple wars in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971. But since the late 1990s, whenever India and Pakistan approached the brink of war, a familiar de-escalation playbook unfolded: intense diplomacy, often led by the United States, would help defuse tensions. In 1999, President Bill Clinton's direct mediation ended the Kargil conflict – a limited war triggered by Pakistani forces crossing the Line of Control into Indian-administered Kashmir – by pressing Pakistan for a withdrawal.

Similarly, after the 2001 attack inside the Indian Parliament by terrorists allegedly linked to Pakistan-based groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage engaged in intense shuttle diplomacy between Islamabad and New Delhi, averting war.

And after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which saw 166 people killed by terrorists linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, rapid and high-level American diplomatic involvement helped restrain India's response and reduced risk of an escalating conflict.

As recently as 2019, during the Balakot crisis – which followed a suicide bombing in Pulwama, Kashmir, that killed 40 soldiers – it was American diplomatic pressure that helped contain hostilities.

Washington as peacemaker made sense: It had influence and a vested interest.During the Cold War, US formed a close alliance with Pakistan to counter India's links with the Soviet Union. And after the 9/11 terror attacks, US poured tens of billions of dollars in military assistance into Pakistan as a frontline partner in the "war on terror."

A stable Pakistan was a crucial partner in US war in Afghanistan; a friendly India was a strategic counterbalance to China. And this gave US both the motivation and credibility to act as an effective mediator during moments of India-Pakistan crisis.

And while Trump said the 10 May ceasefire followed a "long night of talks mediated by the United States," statements from India and Pakistan appeared to downplay US involvement, focusing instead on the direct bilateral nature of negotiations.

For India and Pakistan, this environment creates both opportunity and risk.

But what truly distinguished the latest crisis from those of the past is, I believe, its multi-domain nature. The conflict is no longer confined to conventional military exchanges along the line of control – as it was for the first five decades of the Kashmir question.

These shifts have created multiple escalation pathways that traditional crisis management approaches weren't designed to address.

Particularly concerning is the nuclear dimension.

Thankfully, as the ceasefire announcement indicates, mediating voices appear to have prevailed this time around.

But eroding norms, diminished great power diplomacy and the advent of multi-domain warfare, I argue, made this latest flare-up a dangerous turning point.

What happens next will tell us much about how nuclear rivals manage, or fail to manage, the spiral of conflict in this dangerous new landscape.—*The Conversation*

SALAR ساہر

Kohli retires: Can new stars match the legend?

Virat Kohli sounded almost desolate while talking about his struggles against Fidel Edwards during his debut Test against the West Indies in 2011. It was not the beginning an ambitious young man desired.

Instead of glory, there was anxiety and confusion. He ended that nearly 20 minutes of conversation at a Kingston restaurant with a plain yet powerful message: "Lekin mein chhorunga nahi (I will not leave it)".

He did not leave the fight, hitting peaks between 2014 and 2019 that not many modern day cricketers have climbed.

Runs and centuries flowed as the cricketing world marvelled at the transformation into a batting virtuoso who propelled India to some dizzying heights and memorable wins in Test cricket.

However, it's also a blueprint for some of the young batters who have been tasked to helm the Indian cricket in the post-Kohli and Rohit Sharma era. *—PTI*

HERE'S A GLANCE AT FEW OF THEM:

Shubman Gill

Among the "Next Generatio" stars, none holds more significance than Shubman Gill, potentially India's premier batsman and Test skipper in the coming days.

Perhaps, it's a coincidence but Gill finds himself in the same space as Kohli when he was at 25 — with a middling Test record.

The Punjab man has played 32 Tests for 1893 runs at an average of 35.

But Gill will now go to England where he has a modest record — 88 runs from three Tests at an average of 14.66.

Like Kohli, Gill will have to bring in that iron-hearted discipline into his batting along with developing the tendency to bat closer to his body to cover the swing.

Yashasvi Jaiswal

Jaiswal is certain to open the innings in England and he has already done that job in the West Indies, South Africa, Australia and India. But the task will be different and tougher on his maiden trip to England.

Jaiswal showed his technique and patience while notching up big runs in Australia and the West Indies at an average in excess of 44 and 80.

But as a batter who loves the ball coming onto his bat, Jaiswal will face a sterner challenge in late swing in England.

He will have to check his booming drives and rasping cuts, focusing more on leaves and selecting the right occasion to attack.

After a struggle in 2014, Kohli learned how to negate the late swing of Anderson and Broad in 2018, and he made 593 runs from five matches at an average of 59.

Dhruv Jurel

At 24, Jurel stands a good back-up option behind Rishabh Pant as the second wicket-keeper batter. He was impressive in the debut series against England but could not make much impact against Australia.

Jurel has the requisite guts and skill level to be a long-term servant in Test cricket. He showed his prowess both in attack and defence while making two fifties against Australia in an unofficial Test ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy last year.

B Sai Sudharsan

Orthodoxy is his strength. There is a bright chance of him making it to the touring squad to England, and his copybook batting could come handy in England, making him a calm yin to the more aggressive yang of Jaiswal.

The 23-year-old Sudharsan prefers to play down the ground on either side with a straight bat, a quality that gives immense chance to succeed in England.

The grainy footage of West Indian greats Viv Richards and Desmond Haynes driving England pacers like Ian Botham and John Snow down the ground for boundaries is still available on YouTube, and that could be his reference material.

He also has the experience of playing for Surrey in County cricket.

Sarfaraz Khan

The 27-year-old can pillage an attack like he did against New Zealand in Bengaluru last year with a belligerent 150. But since then, ordinary form and a rib injury have pulled him back. The Mumbai man might also be asked to work on his fitness.

There is no doubting the skills of Sarfaraz. But if he can take some cues from Kohli's almost manic chase of fitness to keep his skills sharp, then Sarfaraz can revive his Test fortunes.

The Collective Task

Now, there is no Kohli or Rohit Sharma to guide them, pep them, cajole them or scold them. So, can the boys survive battles and grow into men all alone?

It will determine the brightness of their own and India's cricket's future.

—PTI

Now, there is no Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma to guide, pep, cajole or scold the new generation players ***PHOTO: PTI***

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

An elusive peace: Charting ceasefire attempts in Ukraine

There have been many attempts to broker a lasting peace in Ukraine, all of which have ended within weeks or even days. DW's summary charts a history of recent failures in the conflict.

Since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, attempts to implement a lasting end to the violence of its ongoing war in Ukraine have been many.

Over more than a decade, Ukraine, its European supporters and the United States have tried to resolve the crisis. All have been unsuccessful.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed a new round of ceasefire negotiations in Istanbul on 15 May.

His announcement came as Russia commenced a fresh drone attack on Kyiv following the end of a unilateral three-day "truce" declared by Russia.

European leaders rebuffed the proposal of direct talks, however, without an unconditional ceasefire first being enacted by Russia and Ukraine.

That was a view also expressed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The latest developments come amid months of prolonged negotiations between the US and Ukraine, and, separately, between American and Russian diplomats.

Before his election to US presidency, Donald Trump committed to ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict on his first day in office. While that hasn't been the case, his administration has continually sought to broker an agreement to draw the war to a close.

No lasting ceasefire has been achieved since Russia invaded Ukraine on 22 Feb, 2022.

The Budapest Memorandum is an agreement between Russia and Ukraine reached on 5 December, 1994 and co-signed by the US and US.

The Memorandum was enacted after Ukraine agreed to surrender the nuclear weapons it inherited from the USSR to Russia. The 1997 joint Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership commits both parties to "mutual respect and trust" and "respect each other's territorial integrity."

While not ceasefire agreements, both pacts are intended to prevent conflict between the two nations. By invading and annexing Crimea in 2014 and continuing to invade and attack Ukrainian territory, Russia has repeatedly breached its obligations under both the Memorandum and Treaty.

No lasting ceasefire has been achieved since Russia invaded Ukraine on 22 February, 2022 ***PHOTO: PTI***

Two agreements, both signed in Belarus, which is allied to Russia, and supported by European powers, were insufficient to secure peace.

So named for the Belarusian capital, these agreements were implemented on 5 September , 2014 as "Minsk I" and 12 February, 2015 as "Minsk 2".

Since Russia's full-scale invasion, several short-term ceasefires have been repeatedly breached.

On 6 March, 2022, a short-term humanitarian ceasefire after the start of Russia's invasion collapsed amid reported shelling in the city of Mariupol.

On 8 March, 2022, ongoing attempts to build humanitarian evacuation corridors led to accusations of Russian forces impeding civilians from fleeing.

On 7 January, 2023, Russia declared a unilateral ceasefire to observe Orthodox Christmas. Within hours of the ceasefire, Ukrainian leaders reported shelling by Russian forces had resumed, while Russian state media said drone attacks against its lines had occurred.

On 18 March, 2025, talks conducted in Saudi Arabia between the US and Russia led to an agreement for a 30-day "energy and infrastructure" ceasefirefollowing a phone call between Trump and Putin. Zelenskyy agreed to a partial ceasefire in line with these discussions.

On 25 March, 2025, US-led negotiations led to Ukraine and Russia agreeing not to attack each other in the Black Sea, a vital shipping route.

On 27 March, 2025, both Ukraine and Russia accused each other of violating the temporary halt to attacking energy infrastructure.

On 19 April, 2025, Putin declared an "Easter truce" from 18:00 local time on 19 April to midnight on 21 April, ostensibly for humanitarian reasons. Ukraine expressed skepticism at the declaration, with Zelenskyy saying drone attacks were ongoing. He later alleged thousands of frontline violations had been committed by Russia during the truce period.

On 10 May, 2025, Russia had declared a unilateral ceasefire in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. However Ukraine accused Russia of violating its own ceasefire some 734 times. *—DW News*

PHOTO: X

Burkina Faso's forces killed 100 in March: HRW

DAKAR, 12 MAY

At least 100 civilians were killed by Burkina Faso government forces in March near the western town of Solenzo, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Monday. According to victim testimony and videos gathered from social media, the attackers were Burkina Faso Special Forces and members of a pro-government militia, the Volunteers for the Defence of the Homeland, the HRW said. The victims were all ethnic Fulani, a pastoralist community that is widespread across the region, which the government has long accused of supporting Muslim militants. The government issued a sharp denial when initial reports surfaced. Further research by HRW uncovered that Burkina Faso's military was responsible for these mass killings. *—PTI*

Mass grave of alleged IS victims found in Syria

DAMASCUS, 12 MAY

The remains of 30 people believed to have been killed by the militant Islamic State group have been found in a remote Syrian town in a search led by Qatari search teams and the FBI, according to a statement from Qatar on Monday. The Qatari internal security forces said the FBI had requested the search, and that DNA tests are currently underway to determine the identities of the people. Dozens of foreigners, including aid workers and journalists, were killed by IS militants who had controlled large swaths of Syria and Iraq for half a decade and declared a so-called caliphate. The militant group lost most of its territory in late 2017 and was declared defeated in 2019. Since then, dozens of gravesites and mass graves have been discovered in northern Syria. *—PTI*

Campaign begins for South Korea Prez polls

SEOUL, 12 MAY

The candidates for the presidential elections slated to take place on 3 June have started with their official campaign from Monday, reported news agency Yonhap. It said the polls show that Democratic Party (DP) candidate Lee Jae-myung is leading the race. With the election fervour, opinion surveys in South Korea have predicted that the voters are likely to end 3 years of conservative rule after former President Yoon Suk Yeol was ousted over his martial law bid in December. Jae-myung is trailed by People Power Party's (PPP) Kim Moon-soo. According to Yonhap, his candidacy was confirmed only two days ago after an intraparty strife happened over a possible candidacy merger with former Prime Mininster Han Duck-soo. *—ANI*

Stolen Bodhisatva returns to Japan after 13 yrs

TOKYO, 12 MAY

A 14th century Korean Buddhist statue stolen from a Japanese temple nearly 13 years ago was returned on Monday, following years of legal battle between Japan and South Korea over its ownership that had further strained sensitive ties between the two Asian neighbours. Dozens of temple members and local residents standing by the roadside applauded to welcome the statue as a truck carrying a wooden container with it arrived at Kannonji, a temple on Japan's western island of Tsushima. The statue is expected to be kept at a local museum following a ceremony at the temple later in the day, temple officials said. The 50cm bronze statue of Bodhisatva – a female goddess of mercy – is depicted in a sitting position. *—PTI*

Russia barrages Ukraine with drone attacks

Kremlin turns down ceasefire proposal backed by US, EU

KYIV, 12 MAY

Russia launched more than 100 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine in night-time attacks, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, after the Kremlin rejected an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in the more than three-year war.

There was no response from the Kremlin, meanwhile, to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's challenge for Russia's President Vladimir Putin to meet him for face-to-face peace talks in Turkey this week.

"We await a full and lasting ceasefire, starting from tomorrow, to provide the necessary basis for diplomacy. There is no point in prolonging the killings. And I will be waiting for Putin in (Turkiye) on Thursday. Personally. I hope that this time the Russians will not look for excuses," Zelenskyy wrote on X on Sunday.

EU leaders from UK, France, Germany, Ukraine and Poland make a call to US President Donald Trump from Kyiv, Ukraine, on Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Saturday and issued a coordinated call for a 30-day truce starting Monday. The plan has received backing from both the European Union and Trump who said in a social media post earlier Sunday that Ukraine should agree to Putin's peace talks proposal "IMMEDIATELY."

"At least they will be able to determine whether or not a deal is possible, and if it is not, European leaders, and the U.S., will know where everything stands, and can proceed accordingly!" Trump wrote, adding: "HAVE THE MEETING, NOW!!!"

The European leaders pledged tougher sanctions on Russia if Putin did not accept the proposal.

In 2022, in the war's early months, Zelenskyy repeatedly called for a personal meeting with the Russian president but was rebuffed, and eventually enacted a decree declaring that holding negotiations with Putin had become impossible.

Putin and Zelenskyy have only met once, in 2019. Trump says 'deep hatred' between the sides made it difficult to push peace efforts forward. *–PTI*

Poland closes Russian consulate in Krakow

WARSAW, 12 MAY

Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski on Monday ordered the closure of Russia's consulate in the southern city of Krakow after authorities said Russia was responsible for a fire that destroyed a shopping centre in Warsaw last year.

"In connection with the evidence that the Russian special services committed a reprehensible act of sabotage against the shopping center on Marywilska Street, I have decided to withdraw my consent to the operation of the consulate of the Russian Federation in Krakow," Sikorski said in a statement.

The fire broke out 12 May 2024, in the Marywilska shopping centre housing some 1,400 shops and service points. Many of the vendors were from Vietnam, and it inflicted tragedy on many in the city's Vietnamese community.

The decision comes amid rising concerns in Europe over Russian attempts to destabilise the region through covert operations. Russia in the past has denied that it is carrying out such attacks. *—PTI*

Markets surge as US-China roll back tariffs

US President Donald Trump and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping *PHOTO: X*

GENEVA, 12 MAY

China's Commerce Ministry has hailed the 90-day suspension of tariffs between the US and China as a vital step towards resolving longstanding trade differences and fostering global economic stability. In a statement, the ministry urged the US to stop its "erroneous practice of unilateral tariff hikes" and cooperate to restore certainty to global trade. The temporary truce follows months of mounting tensions. The Trump administration raised tariffs on Chinese goods to a staggering 145 per cent, prompting China to retaliate with a 125 per cent levy on American imports. These tariffs, essentially a mutual boycott, severely disrupted trade between the two nations, which totalled over USD 660 billion last year. Markets responded positively to the breakthrough. Futures for the S&P 500 jumped 2.6 per cent, Dow Jones rose 2 per cent, and oil prices surged by more than USD 1.60 a barrel. The US dollar also strengthened against the euro and yen, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose nearly 3 per cent. European markets also saw gains. Jens Eskelund, president of the EU Chamber of Commerce in China, welcomed the development but cautioned that businesses require long-term predictability.

"We hope both sides continue dialogue and avoid actions that disrupt global trade,"he said. Despite the optimism, analysts warned that the truce is only a temporary reprieve. Much hinges on whether both nations can bridge deeper disagreements during the 90-day window, on issues like fentanyl exports and longstanding tariff disputes from Trump's first term. *—PTI*

TRUMP TO RECEIVE $400M 'FLYING PALACE' FROM QATAR

The "flying palace" is dubbed the most opulent private jet in the world and will be retrofitted with security and safety features of Air Force One for US President Donald Trump. Here are the features:

Plush interiors with lounge, conference room

- Boeing 747-8 is a jumbo jet
- It has plush interiors with lounge and lavishly decorated bedrooms with bathrooms. Has gold-coloured walls and gold furnishings.
- Conference area can accommodate 6-7 people and has multiple lounges.
- The interior was done by French interior design firm Alberto Pinto Cabinet.

Lavishly decorated bedrooms with bathrooms

Grand well-lit staircase

Early poll trends show Albania's Socialists leading

TIRANA, 12 MAY

Preliminary results from Albania's parliamentary elections suggest that the ruling Socialist Party, led by Prime Minister Edi Rama, is poised for victory, garnering 53% of the votes counted so far.

The opposition, headed by the centre-right Democratic Party coalition, led by Sali Berisha, trails significantly with 35 per cent. With these numbers, the Socialists are expected to achieve the 71 seats required for an outright majority in the 140-seat assembly.

Voter turnout was reported at approximately 42.16 per cent, indicating a slight decline compared to the previous election cycle. The electoral process was deemed largely peaceful, with minor irregularities noted by Central Election Commission officials that would not affect the overall results.

Rama's campaign focused on promises of expedited EU membership, improved infrastructure, and increased tourism aimed at elevating the country's international standing. Berisha, a former prime minister, has countered these claims, arguing that Albania was not ready for EU membership. Over 570 international observers, were present to ensure a transparent and credible electoral process in the Balkan nation as it seeks closer ties with EU. *—PTI*

Israeli strike in Gaza kills 16

DEIR AL-BALAH, 12 MAY

Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter in the Gaza Strip killed at least 16 people in the embattled enclave, mostly women and children even as Hamas militant group said it would release the last living American-Israeli hostage held in Gaza on Monday.

At least five children and four women were among those killed in the strike on a school in the Jabaliya area, the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service said. It also said that a number of people were wounded.

The Israeli military says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because its fighters operate in densely populated areas. There was no immediate comment on the latest strike.

The attack came as US President Donald Trump is heading to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week.

After ending a ceasefire two months ago, Israel is intensifying the war in the Gaza Strip, where its 10-week blockade on food, medicine and other supplies is worsening a humanitarian crisis.

Palestinians at a UN school used as a shelter by displaced residents hit by Israeli military strikes in Jabaliya, northern Gaza Strip *PHOTO: PTI*

Israel seeks withdrawal of warrants by International Court

Israel on Monday has filed a request with the International Criminal Court to have arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister, Yoav Gallant, withdrawn as it claims that the court did not have the legal authority to issue arrest warrants in November. The warrants allege that Netanyahu and Gallant are responsible for crimes against humanity in the Gaza war. Israel, which is not a member of the court and rejects its jurisdiction, strongly refutes the allegations.

Hamas to free American hostage

Meanwhile, Hamas militant group announced on Sunday that it would free Edan Alexander, the last living American-Israeli hostage held in Gaza, as a goodwill gesture for the Trump administration. Alexander, an Israeli soldier, was taken captive on 7 October 2023. *—PTI*

Taliban bans chess calls it 'haram'

KABUL, 12 MAY

The Taliban has officially banned chess in Afghanistan, citing "religious considerations" as the basis for its decision, according to reports from Khaama Press. The ban was announced on 11 May by officials from the Ministry of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, who also dissolved the Afghanistan Chess Federation, labelling the game as "haram" (forbidden) under their interpretation of Islamic law. All chess related activities will be suspended indefinitely, the ministry said. This move represents the Taliban's broader trend of imposing restrictions on cultural and recreational activities since taking power. *—PTI*

UK doubles citizenship wait time in new policy

LONDON, 12 MAY

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday unveiled a tough new set of policy measures, including doubling the wait time for migrants seeking citizenship from five to 10 years, to ensure immigration figures fall significantly over the next five years.

Addressing a press conference from Downing Street ahead of the Labour Party government's much-anticipated Immigration White Paper being tabled in Parliament, Starmer pledged that his government's tighter measures will create an immigration system that is "controlled, selective and fair".

"Every area of the immigration system – work, family and study will be tightened up so we have more control. Fair rules must be followed," he said. Instead of five years, all migrants must spend a decade in the UK before applying for permanent residency, unless they can show a "real and lasting contribution to the economy and society".

Under this new framework to be rolled out, "high-skilled and high-contributing" individuals, such as "nurses, doctors, engineers and AI leaders", who contribute to the UK economy, will be fast-tracked.

The new rules will also toughen language requirements across every immigration route to ensure a higher standard of English.

The full package of the White Paper reforms will be laid out by UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper in the House of Commons and is also expected to include a crackdown on overseas care worker numbers in order to reduce pressure on public sector services.

"Backdoor routes to settlement will be closed, enforcement will be stepped up as we end abuse of the system," the statement added. *—PTI*

Australia PM forms new cabinet, drops Israel critic

MELBOURNE, 12 MAY

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has unveiled a new Cabinet following the Labor Party's significant election victory on 3 May. Albanese's announcement comes after the demotion of former Industry and Science Minister Ed Husic, who attributed his removal partly to his previous criticisms of Israel's actions in Gaza. Labor has gained unprecedented support, claiming 92 seats in the House of Representatives, with the potential to reach 95 as counting continues. While Albanese did not confirm whether he advocated for Husic's retention, he emphasised the party's established processes for ministerial appointments. Husic expressed disappointment over his demotion, suggesting it was a consequence of speaking out on sensitive issues.st, Albanese's Cabinet does not have any Jewish ministers for the first time since 2010. *—PTI*

PEACE AFTER 40 YEARS

Kurdish militant group in Turkey disbanded

ANKARA, 12 MAY

A Kurdish militant group announced a historic decision Monday to disband and disarm as part of a new peace initiative with Turkey, after four decades of armed conflict.

The decision by the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, was announced by the Firat News Agency, a media outlet close to the group. It comes days after it convened a party congress in northern Iraq.

In February, PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who has been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, urged his group to convene a congress and formally decide to disband, marking a pivotal step toward ending the decades-long conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives since the 1980s.

Kurdish PKK to end its armed struggle with Turkey *PHOTO: X*

The group has led an armed insurgency since 1984 and is listed as a terror group by Turkey and its Western allies.

Firat news said activities carried out under the name PKK were formally terminated and that the PKK's struggle had "brought the Kurdish issue to the point of resolution through democratic politics, thus completing its historical mission." *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Gold tanks by Rs 3,400 to Rs 96,550/10 g

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

Gold prices tanked sharply by Rs 3,400 to Rs 96,550 per 10g in the national capital on Monday as traders shifted from safe-haven buying after the US declared a 90-day pause on tariff against Chinese imports. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity plunged Rs 3,400 to Rs 96,100 per 10g on Monday. This marks the steepest fall in 10 months since gold prices plunged Rs 3,350 on 23 July, 2024. Gold of 99.9 and 99.5 per cent purity had settled at Rs 99,950 and Rs 99,500 per 10g on Saturday. Spot gold tanked over 3 per cent to trade at USD 3,218.70 per ounce in the global markets. *—PTI*

Ather Energy sees loss of Rs 234.4 cr in FY25 Q4

MUMBAI, 12 MAY

Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy narrowed losses to Rs 234.4 crore in the March quarter of the previous fiscal year. The company had posted a loss of Rs 283.30 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing. The income from operations during the quarter rose 29.5 per cent to Rs 676.1 crore from Rs 523.4 crore a year ago, it said. For 2024-25, Ather Energy posted a net loss of Rs 812 crore as compared to Rs 1059.70 crore a year ago. The Bengaluru-headquartered company made its debut on the stock exchanges on 6 May this year. *—PTI*

Tata Steel posts twofold rise in profit to Rs 1.2K cr

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

Tata Steel has posted over twofold increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,200.88 crore in the March quarter, on account of higher income. It had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 554.56 crore in the January-March period of the preceding 2023-24 fiscal year, the company said in an exchange filing. The company's total income declined to Rs 56,679.11 crore from Rs 58,863.22 crore in the year-ago quarter. Tata Steel reduced expenses to Rs 54,167.61 crore from Rs 56,496.88 crore in the year-ago period. The company posted a net profit of Rs 3,173.78 crore in FY25. It had reported a loss of Rs 4,909.61 crore loss in the preceding financial year. The board also recommended a dividend of Rs 3.60 per ordinary (equity) share of face value Rs 1 each (360 per cent) to the shareholders of the company for FY25. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Raymond Lifestyle posts Rs 45 cr loss in Q4

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

Raymond Lifestyle on Monday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 44.95 crore during the March quarter on account of weaker consumer demand and lower sales due to system outages. It had reported a net profit of Rs 235.58 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing from Raymond Lifestyle, a Raymond Group firm. However, its revenue from operations was down 11.3 per cent to Rs 1,494.15 crore in the March quarter. It was at Rs 1,684.55 crore in the year-ago period. The IT team, with the support of cybersecurity experts, contained the attack. Total expenses of the Singhania family-promoted firm were up 4.45 per cent to Rs 1,625.08 crore during the quarter under review. *—PTI*

Investors get rich by almost Rs 16.15L cr

Market skyrockets nearly 4%; Sensex soars by 2,975.43 pts, Nifty jumps by 916.70 pts

MUMBAI, 12 MAY

Dalal Street investors became richer by Rs 16.15 lakh crore on Monday as markets skyrocketing nearly 4 per cent, after India and Pakistan announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea.

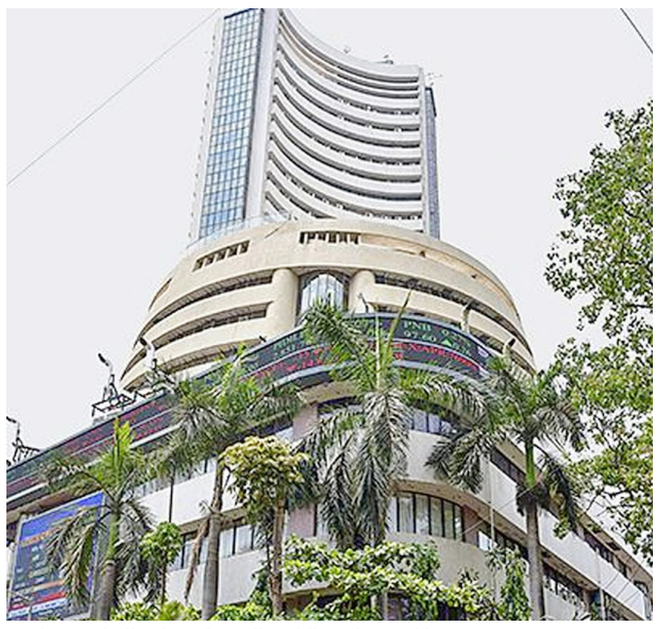
Also, a trade agreement between the US and China added to the markets' optimism.

After starting the trade on an optimistic note, the 30-share BSE benchmark gauge Sensex further jumped 2,975.43 points or 3.74 per cent to settle at 82,429.90. During the day, it rallied 3,041.5 points or 3.82 per cent to a high of 82,495.97.

Sensex and Nifty logged their biggest single-day gains in absolute terms on across the board buying led by IT, metal, realty and tech shares. From the Sensex firms, Infosys jumped 7.91 per cent.

HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, NTPC and Reliance Industries were the other major gainers.

Sun Pharma and IndusInd Bank were the only laggards from the blue-chip pack. The BSE smallcap gauge surged 4.18 per cent and midcap index jumped 3.85 per cent.



Market capitalisation of BSE listed firms jumped by Rs 16,15,275.19 crore to Rs 4,32,56,125.65 crore in a single day **PHOTO: PTI**

"Markets opened the week on a strong footing, rallying nearly 4 per cent, driven by supportive global and domestic cues," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said. All sectoral indices ended higher.

IT zoomed 6.75 per cent, BSE Focused IT (6.74 per cent), realty (5.87 per cent), metal (5.24 per cent), teck (5.21 per cent), utilities (5.07 per cent), power (4.82 per cent) and industrials (4.24 per cent). As many as 3,545 stocks advanced while 576 declined and 133 remained unchanged on the BSE. *—PTI*

Reliance Power shares zoom over 11% in FY25 Q4

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

Shares of Reliance Power on Monday jumped over 11 per cent after the firm posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 126 crore in the March quarter of FY25. The stock surged 10.66 per cent to close at Rs 42.77 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 13.60 per cent to Rs 43.91. On the NSE, it rallied 11.25 per cent to Rs 43. The company's market valuation climbed Rs 1,654.99 crore to Rs 17,180.58 crore.

In volume terms, 236.89 lakh shares of the firm were traded on the BSE and 1,648.08 lakh shares exchanged hands on the NSE during the day. During the 2024-25 fiscal, the annual consolidated net profit stood at Rs 2,947.83 crore. *– PTI*

Yes Bank shares climb over 2%

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

Shares of Yes Bank on Monday ended over 2 per cent higher after State Bank of India and seven other lenders announced selling 20 per cent of their combined stakes in the firm to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for a consideration of Rs 13,483 crore. Trimming most of its sharp early gains, the stock climbed 2 per cent to settle at Rs 20.40 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 8.7 per cent to Rs 21.74. On the NSE, shares of the firm ended at Rs 20.49 each, up 2.34 per cent. Intra-day, the stock surged 8.39 per cent to Rs 21.70. The company's market valuation went up by Rs 1,258.37 crore to Rs 63,966.60 crore. *– PTI*

Centre fires SECI CMD amid allegations linked to Adani

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

The Indian government has dismissed Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, former IAS officer and Chairman and Managing Director of the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI), just over a month before the end of his tenure. The announcement, made on 10 May, by the Personnel Ministry, did not provide any reasons for the termination.

Gupta, who took up the role on 15 June, 2023, was previously Secretary of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. SECI is recognised as a leading Navratna public sector undertaking focusing on advancing renewable energy in India.

Following Gupta's dismissal, the Congress party moved to link his termination to ongoing allegations involving billionaire **Gautam Adani**. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh stated that SECI had been implicated in a chargesheet by US authorities in November 2024 regarding purported bribery linked to solar energy contracts. Ramesh accused the government of attempting to obscure the so-called "Modani MegaScam."

He further claimed that Gupta's removal, on the heels of SECI altering its tender processes amid corruption allegations, reflects a deeper issue within the government associated with the Adani group.

In November, US investigators charged Adani, his nephew, and another senior executive for allegedly plotting to bribe Indian officials to secure solar energy contracts while concealing these efforts from American investors. *— PTI*

Adani Ports share gains 5% over UP power deal

MUMBAI, 12 MAY

The shares of Adani Ports rallied over 5 per cent to touch an intraday high of Rs 1,375 after the company bagged a deal with the UP government to supply 1,500 MW of electricity from a greenfield ultra-supercritical power plant it is building in the state. The State Cabinet had approved the project earlier this month, a statement said. The company will now sign a long-term power supply agreement with Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL), it stated. It will supply power at a tariff of Rs 5.383 per unit. "We plan to set up a modern and low-emission ultra-supercritical plant in UP and aim to begin supplying reliable and high-quality power by FY30," Adani Power CEO SB Khyalia said. *— Agencies*

FTA: India declines UK's 'data exclusivity' demand

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

India has not accepted the UK's demand for inclusion of a "data exclusivity" provision in the free trade agreement (FTA) announced on 6 May, in a bid to protect the interests of the domestic generic drugs industry, an official said on Monday.

"India has not accepted that. There is no fear for the Indian generic industry from this agreement. In fact, it is our very important objective to see that the generic drug industry flourishes," the official said.

The sector plays a key role in India's exports, which are also growing.

Data exclusivity provides protection to the technical data generated by innovator companies to prove the usefulness of their products. In the pharmaceutical sector, drug companies generate data through expensive global clinical trials to prove the efficacy and safety of their new medicine.

By gaining exclusive rights over this data, innovator companies can prevent their competitors from obtaining a marketing licence for low-cost versions during the tenure of this exclusivity.

- Data exclusivity provides protection to the technical data generated by innovator companies to prove the usefulness of their products.

Earlier, India had also rejected a similar demand from the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in their free trade agreement negotiations.

The EFTA members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

The UK (AstraZeneca and GSK) and Switzerland (Novartis and Roche) have some of the major pharma firms of the world. *—PTI*

SEBI continues monitoring index options

MUMBAI, 12 MAY

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has noted that trading activity by individual investors in index options has not declined significantly, even after implementing restrictions in late 2024 to mitigate speculative trading.

Investigations into the derivatives segment, covering the period between December 2024 and March 2025, revealed a 12 per cent reduction in individual participation year-on-year, though a 77 per cent surge was seen compared to two years earlier.

Notably, while overall index options trading has decreased 5 per cent on a premium basis, individual activity has increased when compared to levels from two years ago.

The regulator highlighted that despite prior measures aimed at curbing excessive trading, activity on expiry days remains a concern.

SEBI plans to reassess trading activities to enhance investor protection and systemic stability. *— PTI*

'Funds, norms, trust hurdles for startups'

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

Indian startups these days contend with a range of hurdles, including access to consistent funding, navigating intricate regulatory and tax frameworks, overcoming bureaucratic obstacles, retaining talent, and earning consumer confidence in a price-sensitive market, said Rukam Capital's Archana Jahagirdar.

Jahagirdar – the founder and managing partner of the venture capital firm that has invested in startups like Beco, Sleepy Owl and Indus Valley – believes that while ambition and innovation of Indian startups are undeniable, access to consistent funding, especially at the early stage, remains a major roadblock.

"Unlike more mature ecosystems, India still sees uneven distribution of capital, with non-metro startups facing even steeper barriers. Operating within a maze of complex rules and taxing systems is another industry challenge.

"Beyond funding, Indian startups often grapple with regulatory bottlenecks, talent retention, and building consumer trust in a price-sensitive market. A common pitfall is chasing valuations without establishing a clear path to profitability or differentiation," she said.

- From a few thousand startups in 2016 to over 150,000 today, the ecosystem has matured in both scale and ambition.

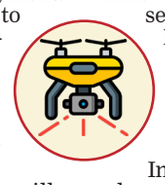
Founders must double down on building strong fundamentals, stay nimble, and leverage tech for scale and efficiency. Surrounding themselves with the right partners, whether VCs, advisors, or early evangelists, can make all the difference, Jahagirdar said.

Over the past decade, India's startup scene has transformed dramatically. From a few thousand startups in 2016 to over 150,000 today, the ecosystem has matured in both scale and ambition. *—PTI*

C-DOT, Synergy ink pact for quantum tech

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has signed a collaboration agreement with Synergy Quantum India to jointly develop quantum communications technology tailored for drone deployment. This partnership aims to enhance India's capabilities in secure telecommunications and aligns with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative promoting indigenous innovation.



Both organisations will work on developing technology that focuses on next-generation secure communication solutions, tapping into the exciting potential of quantum tech. The collaboration will also involve joint research proposals for national and international grant opportunities, fostering new academic and industrial advancements in this cutting-edge field.

C-DOT's CEO, Rajkumar Upadhyay, highlighted the importance of merging public research and private sector innovation to establish a secure digital future for India. Synergy Quantum's CEO, Jay Oberoi, echoed this sentiment, emphasising that their partnership could position India as a frontrunner in drone-based quantum secure communications.

The initiative is expected to revolutionise data transmission methods in critical sectors, ensuring secure communications for military applications, emergency responses, and govt operations. *— PTI*

SAYS MORGAN STANLEY

'Humanoid to arrive sooner than expected'

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

- A humanoid is a non-human entity that resembles humans in appearance or characteristics, often used in science fiction or robotics.The growing Artificial Intelligence (AI) is continuously reshaping industries, economies, and daily life across the globe.

Humanoid will arrive sooner than expected, says Morgan Stanley.

A humanoid is a non-human entity that resembles humans in appearance or characteristics, often used in science fiction or robotics.

The investment banking firm projects that "the team set forth their proprietary humanoid TAM model that projects the global market for humanoid robots will grow to become materially larger than the global auto industry."

This accelerated timeline suggests a potentially disruptive force with broad economic and sector-wide implications.

With the arrival of humanoids, the MS research estimates this potential impact by estimating that the market for humanoids could reach approximately USD 4.7 trillion by the year 2050.

This provides the long-term investment opportunities and the transformative nature of humanoid technology for the investors.

Within this AI-driven landscape, the development of humanoids, considered a subset of "Embodied AI," is identified as a key area of focus.

The growing Artificial Intelligence (AI) is continuously reshaping industries, economies, and daily life across the globe.

While it has only been a little more than two years since the launch of ChatGPT, a report by Morgan Stanley believes we are still in the early stages of AI's spread across various sectors and regions.

Both AI and humanoids are seen as pivotal forces shaping investment strategies and offering significant opportunities for alpha generation within the evolving technological landscape. *—ANI*

THE KING STEPS DOWN FROM HIS THRONE

Virat Kohli made Gen-Z fall in love with Red and Whites

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY

Virat Kohli entered drawing rooms as a "West Delhi boy", grew on his fans like a never-ending love story with his boundless passion and finally called time on his career in whites when his legion of admirers yearned for 'One Last Dance'.

In his mind, he knew that although "it is not easy", it did "feel right". The question to be asked is when exactly did Kohli get this feeling? Perhaps, it was after a torrid tour of Australia where he scored only 91 runs after his second innings century in Perth.

Yet, Indian cricket needed him in England but it seems, the mind, more than the body, had taken enough battering to last a lifetime and he didn't want to go through another five Test series. Virat Kohli, the Test devotee, decided to wave the white flag.

From Cheeku to Virat to King Kohli

From being the chubby 'Cheeku' for his seniors, Virat for his contemporaries and now 'Bhaiyya' to the juniors, 'King Kohli' did traverse a fair distance and experienced joys of highs and the despair of lows in equal measure.

There was an 18-year-old Kohli, who in 2006, put his father Prem Kohli's last rites on hold, scored 90 to save Delhi from follow on and headed straight to the crematorium from Feroz Shah Kotla.

And then in 2025, the global superstar was castled by a little-known Railways medium pacer Himagshu Sangwan in-front of 20,000 fans, who had come to the Ranji Trophy ground, to watch their hero bat.

In the 18 years, he scored 30 Test hundreds and his following grew exponentially with his fans looking up to him as if he was the 'Pied Piper of Hamelin'.

Honest to his craft

Kohli played cricket for all the right reasons and no one should have any doubts that Kohli has timed his Test adieu perfectly.

But in times when attention span of an average Indian fan is as brief as an Instagram reel, Kohli made the millennials and Generation Z fall in love with Test cricket. His Test form was on the wane for some years now and that final average of 46.85 doesn't really scream greatness. He needed another 770 runs to complete 10,000 Test runs, which is still a holy grail for batters in the longest format.

Those years of manic consistency

But Kohli between 2014 to 2019 was a Test player, who personified adrenaline rush, with his work ethic, those rasping cover drives and an assured front-foot stride to live and die for.

Sachin Tendulkar was a perfectionist but Kohli's aura was in being a non-conformist. He had the defensive game but believed in offence.

It all changed after a horrendous 2014 tour of England when James Anderson set the toughest question paper of his career. Full or slightly back of the length deliveries that swung away were thrown at him and Kohli couldn't cross the 'English Channel'.

But months after that debacle, when he rolled his wrists and pulled Mitchell Johnson at the Adelaide Oval after being hit on the helmet, one knew that something special was unfolding. Four hundreds in Australia and the legend of Kohli had his speed truck on Highway to greatness.

In 2018, he came back to England scoring 593 runs to conquer the demons of 2014. He became a bench mark for fitness and also became a captain, who wanted to win away Tests at all costs.

Last of the purists

Kohli loved Test cricket and Test cricket loved him back. It was a symbiotic relationship. He grew up in an era in which Tendulkar was the mega star and playing Test cricket with distinction was the ultimate badge of honour. Kohli will perhaps remain the last megastar of the game's purest form. It is not likely to change anytime soon. *—PTI*

They'll talk about the records and the milestones — but I'll remember the tears you never showed, the battles no one saw, and the unwavering love you gave this format of the game. I know how much all this took from you

-Anushka Sharma, actor and his wife

Congrats to my biscotti on an epic Test career! Your determination & skill have always inspired me. True legend!

AB De Villiers, ex-South African

Your passion for the format was inspiring...and it was an honour to share the crease with you over the years, in the heat of many-a-battle, grinding it out for the country!

Cheteshwar Pujara, Indian

From making my Test debut under your captaincy to reaching new heights together for our country, your passion and energy will be missed but the legacy you leave behind remains unmatched

Jasprit Bumrah, Indian

TEST CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

He scored his **MAIDEN TEST** century in Jan 2012 against Aus at the Adelaide Oval

Holds the record for leading India in most Test matches, captaining the team in **68 GAMES.** India won **40 MATCHES,** the highest by any Indian Test Captain

He has **7 DOUBLE** centuries in Test cricket, the most ever

Has the record for most Test runs as an Indian captain, with **5,864 RUNS** in 68 matches (113 innings) at an average of 54.80, including 20 centuries and 18 fifties

THE BEST OF KOHLI'S INNINGS

119 & 96 VS SOUTH AFRICA – JOHANNESBURG, 2013
On his first South Africa tour, Kohli braved Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel, scoring a century and 96, cementing his status as India's next Test superstar.

115 & 141 VS AUSTRALIA – ADELAIDE, 2014
He took over as Test captain for the first time in Adelaide and dominated the Aus attack. Chasing 364, Kohli launched a bold counterattack despite losing partners at regular intervals, refusing to play for a draw. His aggressive intent kept India in the hunt until his dismissal triggered a collapse.

235 vs England – Mumbai, 2016
In the fourth Test of England's tour of India at the Wankhede Stadium, Kohli batted for nine hours, facing 340 deliveries, with 25 fours and a six. His innings was the backbone of India's total of 631. This was his third double-century in the year.

153 vs South Africa – Centurion, 2018
This was Kohli grittiest knocks. On a pitch with bounce and against a quality South African pace attack led by Morne Morkel, Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander, Kohli compiled a 153 out of India's total of 307. Kohli stood tall as wickets kept falling, no other Indian batter crossed 50 in the innings.

254 vs South Africa - Pune, 2019
Kohli's career-best Test score of 254 came in the second Test of against South Africa. Walking in at 136/2, Kohli anchored the innings, playing for over 8 hours. His innings, studded with 33 fours and 2 sixes, dismantled a South African bowling attack. Kohli's double-century helped India declare at 601/5.

ICONIC MOMENTS OF KOHLI IN TEST CRICKET

DOMINATING AUSTRALIA FOR A DECADE
Kohli gave Australia a taste of their own medicine, matching their famed sledging with grit and fire. India won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy under his leadership for nearly a decade. The 2018 series win in Australia was historic—India's first-ever there.

BRINGING HELL AT LORD'S
On the final day at Lord's, 2021, Kohli's fierce words lit the spark: "If someone's laughing now, let them – because for the next 60 overs, they'll feel the heat." India, with just a slim lead and two wickets in hand, turned a draw into a 151-run victory.

TAKING INDIA TO THE NO 1 IN THE TEST RANKING
Kohli took over as captain when India was ranked No 7 in Tests in 2014. Under his leadership, India rose to No 1 by 2017 and retained the top spot till 2019, winning the Test mace for three consecutive years, a feat that cemented his legacy as a great captain.

Indian squash campaign ends in second round

CHICAGO, 12 MAY

India's campaign at the prestigious World Squash Championships ended in the second round, with all four players bowing out. In the women's singles, Anahat Singh lost 1-3 to Egypt's Fayrouz Aboelkheir (7-11, 11-8, 4-11, 3-11) in a 28-minute match. In the men's draw, Abhay Singh fell 0-3 to world No. 13 Youssef Ibrahim (6-11, 6-11, 9-11), while Veer Chotrani lost 1-3 to top seed Ali Farag (11-7, 7-11, 3-11, 10-12), both Egyptians. Ramit Tandon went down 2-3 to England's Marwan Elshorbagy (9-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8, 8-11). *—PTI*

Saptak Talwar ends tied 39th on HotelPlanner Tour

GIRONA, 12 MAY

India's Saptak Talwar carded a final round of two-under 69 to finish tied 39th at the Challenge de España, held at Fontanals Golf Club. Talwar, who was in the top 15 after round two, totalled seven-under for the week with rounds of 69, 66, 73, and 69. Starting on the back nine, he made two birdies and a bogey on each side. France's Clément Charmasson claimed his maiden HotelPlanner Tour title with a closing 69, finishing on 17-under, one shot ahead of Denmark's Victor Sidal Svendsen. *—PTI*

CA offers support to Aussies refusing to return to India

MELBOURNE, 12 MAY

Australian cricketers who returned home after the suspension of the Indian Premier League (IPL) will be supported by Cricket Australia (CA) if they choose not to return for the remainder of the tournament, according to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald.

All Australian players across IPL teams have now arrived back home, though some former players like Ricky Ponting and Brad Haddin, currently part of coaching staff, remain in India. Others, including Justin Langer and Mike Hussey, have returned amid heightened border tensions between India and Pakistan.

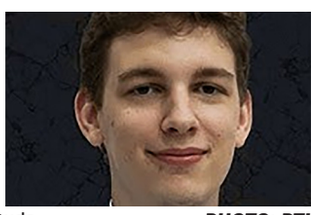
With the IPL set to resume this week following the announcement of a ceasefire on Saturday, there are concerns that players may face pressure to return. However, CA has vowed to back those who decide against it on safety grounds.

'Fear and anxiety remained prevalent emotions among Australian players,' the report noted, adding that CA will defend their right to opt out without fear of being excluded from future IPL editions.

Additionally, a packed international calendar could complicate any return. Test players like Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Travis Head are expected to spend a few days at home before heading to the UK for the World Test Championship final against South Africa, followed by a Test series in the West Indies. *—PTI*

Praggnanandhaa to take on Duda in Superbet Classic

BUCHAREST, 12 MAY



R Praggnanandhaa and Jan-Krzysztof Duda *PHOTO: PTI*

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa is set to face Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda as he looks to solidify his position at the top of the leaderboard in the sixth round of the Superbet Classic, part of the Grand Chess Tour, on Tuesday.

After five rounds, Praggnanandhaa shares the lead with American Fabiano Caruana and France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, each sitting on three points.

The Indian's performance includes a lone win against Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov and four drawn games.

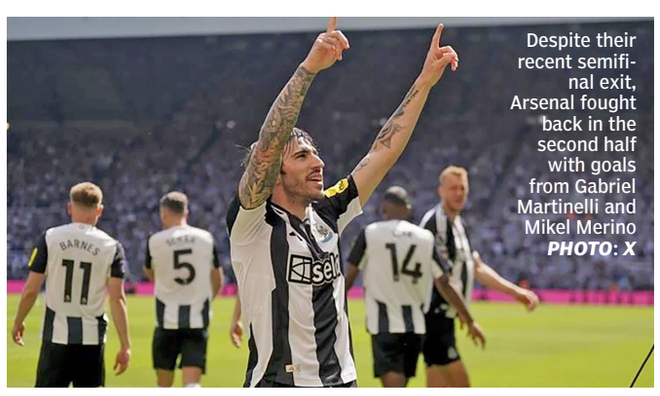
Meanwhile, fellow Indian D Gukesh continues to seek his first win, having recorded four draws and one loss in his five games thus far. He currently occupies a lower position alongside Abdusattorov and Duda.

The tournament boasts a substantial prize pool of USD 350,000, with USD 100,000 allocated for the first-place winner. Praggnanandhaa's subsequent matches after Duda will include two white games against Alireza Firouzja and Wesley So, followed by a final encounter with Levon Aronian.

Round 6 match-ups include: Duda vs Praggnanandhaa; So vs Aronian; Firouzja vs Gukesh; Vachier-Lagrave vs Abdusattorov; and Caruana vs Deac Bogdan Daniel. *—PTI*

RACE FOR QUALIFICATION

Arsenal and Newcastle gear up for crucial Premier League clash



Despite their recent semifinal exit, Arsenal fought back in the second half with goals from Gabriel Martinelli and Mikel Merino *PHOTO: X*

LONDON, 12 MAY

Arsenal and Newcastle are set to face off in a pivotal Premier League showdown next weekend, intensifying the battle for Champions League qualification. With just two matches remaining, the top five clubs secure their places in Europe's elite contest, and the standings are tightly contested.

Arsenal, currently second, is just six points ahead of seventh-placed Nottingham Forest. A mere two points separate Arsenal from Newcastle in third, who claimed a 2-0 victory against Chelsea on Sunday. Meanwhile, Arsenal salvaged a 2-2 draw against Liverpool after trailing 2-0.

Despite their recent semifinal exit, Arsenal fought back in the second half with goals from Gabriel Martinelli and Mikel Merino, who was later sent off. Manager Mikel Arteta acknowledged the team's poor first-half performance, stating that it fell far below the required standard.

In contrast, Nottingham Forest's chances were dented by a 2-2 draw against relegated Leicester, prompting owner Evangelos Marinakis to express frustration towards manager Nuno Espirito Santo on the pitch. Forest remains hopeful of a European spot, either in the Europa League or Conference League.

- Arsenal, currently second, is just six points ahead of seventh-placed Nottingham Forest. A mere two points separate Arsenal from Newcastle in third

As for Manchester United and Tottenham, both continued their dismal run, suffering 2-0 defeats. United's loss to West Ham marked their 17th in the league this season, placing them in a disheartening 16th position. With only two matches left, the race for Champions League places is heating up, making next Sunday's Arsenal versus Newcastle fixture crucial for both clubs' ambitions. *—PTI*